

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 13 February 1992

The week in statistics ...

- ☐ Increase in underemployed workers 2
- ☐ Australia's part-time workers 3
- ☐ A fifth of Australia's population born overseas 4
- ☐ Students rely on family and government for support 5
- ☐ Exports in brief ... 5
- ☐ All the week's releases 6
- ☐ Calendar of key releases up to 25 February 7
- ☐ The latest ...
 - key State indicators 7
 - key national indicators 8



STATISTICS

Increase in underemployed workers

There were 457,400 underemployed workers at May 1991 — that is persons employed part-time who would prefer to work more hours (85%) and full-time workers who worked less than full-time hours due to economic reasons such as short time and insufficient work (15%).

The May 1991 estimate of underemployment is 75 per cent higher than the estimate three years earlier in May 1988.

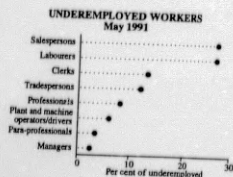
Estimates of underemployment are available monthly from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Labour Force Survey. A supplementary survey is conducted every three years in May to analyse the characteristics of underemployed persons in greater depth. This article presents results of the most recent supplementary survey.

The increase in underemployment has coincided with recent increases in unemployment. In May 1991, the underemployment rate was 5.3 per cent and the unemployment rate was 9.5 per cent, resulting in an underutilisation rate (the sum of these two measures) of 14.8 per cent. The underutilisation rate in May 1988 was 10.8 per cent.

Some 59 per cent of underemployed workers were female whereas females were 42 per cent of the labour force. Almost all (96%) females who were underemployed were part-time workers and the majority (71%) of underemployed males were also part-time workers.

FULLY EMPLOYED AND UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS, MAY 1991
'000

Employment status	Males	Females	Persons
Employed			
Fully employed	4,496.2	3,242.7	7,738.9
Underemployed	4,306.5	2,975.0	7,281.6
Part-time	189.7	267.7	457.4
Full-time	134.3	256.2	390.4
	55.5	11.5	66.9



Of underemployed part-time workers, 38 per cent would have preferred to work 10 to 19 hours more per week, and 14 per cent would have preferred to work an extra 30 hours or more per week.

More than 90 per cent of underemployed part-time workers had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work within four weeks. Of this group, 20 per cent reported their main difficulty in finding such work was that there were 'no vacancies at all' and 16 per cent reported that there were 'no vacancies in their line of work'.

More than three-quarters of underemployed workers were wage and salary earners. Some 27 per cent were salespersons and personal service workers, 27 per cent were labourers and related workers and 25 per cent came from the wholesale and retail trades.

For further information, order the publication *Underemployed Workers*, Australia (6265.0), or contact Ms Jo Jackson on (06) 252 6661.

Australia's part-time workers

The proportion of employed persons who worked part-time has been generally increasing over the last ten years, rising from 17 per cent in December 1981 to 23 per cent in December 1991. (Part-time workers are defined as employed persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and did so during the week prior to interview.)

This increase is mainly due to the rise in the number of females employed part time. In December 1991 they accounted for 17 per cent of total employment compared with 13 per cent in December 1981.

Some 68 per cent of women who were employed part time in December 1991 were married, and married females now account for 52 per cent of total part-time employment.

These findings are among the results of the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

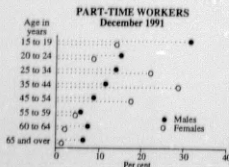
PART-TIME WORKERS
'000

	December 1981	December 1986	December 1991
Males	206.0	290.6	410.4
Females	816.1	1,081.7	1,328.1
Married females	600.4	802.6	908.5
Persons	1,022.1	1,372.3	1,738.5

Nearly 29 per cent of all part-time workers reported a preference to work more hours in December 1991 compared with 24 per cent twelve months earlier. However, only 40 per cent of these persons had actively looked for full-time work in the previous four weeks.

Other details on part-time workers:

- ☐ 33 per cent were married females aged 25 to 44;
- ☐ 32 per cent of males working part time were aged 15 to 19;
- ☐ just over 30 per cent worked for 10 hours or less;
- ☐ 24 per cent of employed persons born in Australia were employed part time compared with 19 per cent for employed persons born outside Australia; and
- ☐ 53 per cent were employed in the wholesale and retail trade and community services industries and 29 per cent were employed as salespersons and personal service workers in November 1991.



A fifth of Australia's population born overseas

At 30 June 1991, 22.7 per cent (3.94 million) of the Australian population were estimated to be overseas born. This is a slight increase on the corresponding figure of 22.5 per cent (3.85 million) at 30 June 1990, continuing the trend experienced in recent years.

During the 1990-91 financial year the total population increased by 1.5 per cent to 17.34 million. The number of overseas-born increased by 2.3 per cent — almost twice the rate of growth of the Australian-born population (1.2%).

The highest net increase in overseas-born population (including the effect of both net migration and deaths) during 1990-91 was for persons born in Hong Kong and Macao (both 15,100). Other overseas-born population groups that recorded significant increases were those born in Vietnam (13,800), Malaysia (6,500), the Philippines (6,300), India (5,000), China (3,600) and Sri Lanka (3,500).

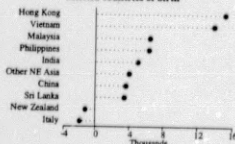
Significant population declines were recorded for Italian-born persons (2,100) and New Zealand-born persons (1,400). The number of persons born in many European countries declined due to deaths in Australia outweighing any gain from net migration. Other countries of birth that registered population declines included Greece, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands and the former USSR (including the Baltic States).

Despite these movements, the estimated 2.4 million European-born residents still account for well over half the total overseas born population.

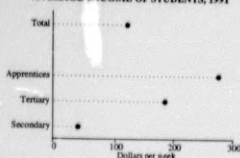
The ten main contributing countries comprise 66.1 per cent of the overseas-born population and are listed below:

Country of birth	Number	Per cent
UK and Ireland	1,222,000	31.0
New Zealand	287,500	7.3
Italy	261,600	6.6
Yugoslavia	167,200	4.2
Greece	145,800	3.7
Vietnam	133,400	3.4
Germany	121,000	3.1
Netherlands	97,600	2.5
Malaysia	84,100	2.1
Lebanon	75,400	1.9
Other overseas born	1,344,900	33.9
Total overseas born	3,940,500	100.0

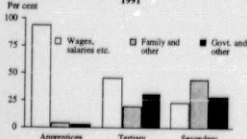
NET POPULATION CHANGE, 1990-91
Selected countries of birth



AVERAGE INCOME OF STUDENTS, 1991



STUDENTS BY PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF INCOME, 1991



Students rely on family and government for support

Nearly two-thirds of all students in Australia who are not working full time rely on assistance from government, family or others for their principal source of finance. Wages, salaries and investments are the principal source of finance for 36.5 per cent of students while 31.3 per cent rely on government and other benefits and 32.2 per cent on family and friends for their main financial support.

The reported average income of students is strongly related to the type of study they are undertaking and to their principal source of finance. Overall, tertiary students have an average weekly income of \$185.60. This is comprised of the following average incomes:

- ☐ \$256.30 per week for students who rely mainly on wages;
- ☐ \$140.10 per week for those with income mainly from government and other benefits; and
- ☐ \$97.10 per week for students receiving most of their income as cash gifts, allowances etc. from family and others.

Almost all secondary students live at home with parent(s) or guardian (97.2%) but only 45.6 per cent have family and others as their principal source of finance. In contrast, most apprentices (95.1%) have wages, salaries and investments as their principal source of finance.

AVERAGE WEEKLY INCOME OF STUDENTS, 1991
(Dollars)

Principal source of income	Secondary	Tertiary	All students
Wages, salaries and investments	65.40	256.30	198.00
Government and other benefits	65.70	140.10	107.10
Family and other	14.70	97.10	43.50
All students	42.40	185.60	119.80

These are some of the results of a new household survey of apprentices and students (not employed full time) undertaken in October and November 1991, which collected information on sources of finance, living arrangements and major types of expenditure for students aged between 15 and 64 years.

For further information, order the publication *Student Finances, Australia* (6550.0), or contact Bruce Siemon on (07) 222 6308.

Exports in brief ...

Merchandise exports for November 1991 were \$4,585 million, an increase of four per cent compared with October 1991 and up two per cent on November of the previous year. The main contributors to the increase in exports recorded for November 1991, compared with one month earlier, were metalliferous ores and metal scrap, meat and meat preparations, and non-metallic mineral manufactures.

Source: *Foreign Trade, Australia: Merchandise Exports, November 1991* (5432.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order
(including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

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13 February 1992

All the week's releases: 5 to 11 February

General

Publications Issued in January 1992 (1102.0; \$6.00)

Publications Advice, 7 February 1992 (1105.0; free)

Publications Advice, 11 February 1992 (1105.0; free)

Statistics Weekly, 6 February 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)

Australian Economic Indicators, January 1992 (1350.0; \$26.00)

Census of Population and Housing

Census 86 — Fertility in Aust. (2514.0; \$12.50) — *new issue*

Census 1991 — First Counts for Statistical Local Areas, ACT (2701.8; \$20.00) — *new issue*

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Marital Status, Age and Sex, Aust., June 1990 and Preliminary 1991 (3220.0; \$11.50)

Deaths, Tas., 1990 (3312.6; \$14.00) — *new issue*

Labour statistics and prices

Average Weekly Earnings Aust., 1941–1990 (6350.0; \$15.00) — *new issue*

Information Paper: The Australian Consumer Price Index — Feasibility of Constructing Price Indexes for Special Population Groups, 1992 (6445.0; free) — *new issue*

Student Finances, Aust., 1991 (6550.0; \$5.00) — *new issue*

Agriculture

Agricultural Land Use and Selected Inputs, SA, 1990–91 (7411.4; \$16.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Clothing and Footwear, November 1991 (8358.0; \$10.50)

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, November 1991 (8359.0; \$10.50)

Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, December 1991 (8504.0; \$10.50)

Building Approvals, NSW, December 1991 (8731.1; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, October 1991 (8741.1; \$10.50)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, September 1991 (8741.3; \$10.50)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 25 February 1992

February

- 12** Retail Trade, Australia, December 1991 (8501.0; \$10.50)
- 13** The Labour Force, Australia, January 1992, Preliminary (6202.0; \$10.50)
- 14** Import Price Index, Australia, November 1991 (6414.0; \$8.00)
- 20** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1992, December Quarter 1991 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$10.50)
- 21** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, December 1991 (5609.0; \$10.50)
Export Price Index, Australia, December 1991 (6405.0; \$8.00)
- 25** Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, December 1991 (6412.0; \$10.50)
Manufacturing Production, Australia, January 1992, Preliminary (8301.0; \$10.50)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
11 February 1992

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 91)*	-11.4	-19.5	-15.7	1.3	-11.6	-24.0	n.a.	n.a.	-14.1
Retail turnover (Nov. 91) (trend estimate)	4.7	3.4	5.2	3.7	7.0	1.8	n.a.	13.7	4.4
New motor vehicle registrations (Dec. 91)† (a)	-17.9	9.6	1.8	-13.9	14.4	11.2	34.2	16.0	-3.6
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Dec. 91)	24.6	21.7	44.9	-9.6	28.7	18.7	105.9	63.1	27.0
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr 91)	-10.1	-34.2	-7.1	-24.4	-18.7	8.6	-9.6	0.5	-17.2
Employed persons (Dec. 91)*	-2.6	-3.6	1.6	-4.3	-0.7	-3.3	3.8	0.1	-2.0
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 91)	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.8	-0.1	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.5
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (Aug. 91)	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.6	6.9	4.1	6.9	4.9	4.9
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Sept. qtr 91)	-0.9	2.2	11.4	-1.5	3.7	-1.0	0.4	-5.7	3.1

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.
(a) Refer to footnote (e) on next page.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
Seasonally adjusted
December 1991



Key national indicators – consolidated to 11 February 1992

			Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on		
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year	
Period							
National production							
Gross domestic product	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	94,473	94,688	1.0	0.1
	— 1984-85 prices			62,900	63,396	-0.3	-1.9
Industrial activity							
New capital expenditure	— current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 91	6,231	6,475	-0.4	-15.3
	— 1984-85 prices			4,817	5,012	0.5	-13.5
Expected new capital expenditure		"	Three months to Dec. 91	7,056	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover	— current prices (f)	"	Nov. 91	8,051.6	7,714.3	-1.1	3.9
	— 1984-85 prices (f)	"	Sept. qtr 91	14,915.3	15,486.9	2.9	0.2
New motor vehicle registrations (e)		no.	Dec. 91	41,839	41,702	-0.9	-3.6
Dwelling unit approvals		"	Dec. 91	10,716	12,177	7.1	21.8
Value of all building approvals		\$m	Dec. 91	1,622	1,764	12.3	13.3
Value of total building work done	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	6,026	5,825	-8.2	-17.2
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,828	3,701	-7.8	-16.8
Manufacturers' sales	— current prices	"	Sept. qtr 91	36,453	35,729	2.6	-0.3
	— 1984-85 prices	"	"	25,305	24,860	2.8	-0.8
Expected manufacturers' sales		"	Three months to Dec. 91	37,652	n.a.	n.a.	-5.0
Labour							
Employed persons (g)		'000	Dec. 91	7,779.5	7,689.4	0.5	-2.0
Unemployment rate † (g)		%	"	10.6	10.6	0.1	2.5
Participation rate † (g)		"	"	64.0	63.3	0.3	-0.5
Job vacancies		'000	Nov. 91	24.9	25.8	2.8	-27.0
Average weekly overtime per employee		hours	"	1.14	1.06	-9.7	-15.1
Prices, profits and wages							
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 91	217.7	n.a.	0.9	1.5	
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries	1984-85 = 100.0	Nov. 91	120.6	n.a.	1.6	-9.8	
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1988-89 = 100.0	Nov. 91	111.5	n.a.	0.3	-1.8	
Company profits before income tax		\$m	Sept. qtr 91	2,982	2,841	21.2	-17.9
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)		\$	Aug. 91	567.70	n.a.	1.2	4.9
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)							
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Oct. 91	8.70	n.a.	-0.85	-4.10	
10-year Treasury bonds †		"	9.80	n.a.	-0.50	-3.55	
Balance of payments							
Exports of merchandise		\$m	Dec. 91	4,616	4,498	-1.3	6.0
Imports of merchandise		"	"	3,784	3,860	-15.8	-9.0
Balance on merchandise trade (c)		"	"	832	638	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)		"	"	804	475	n.a.	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)		"	"	-413	-767	54.8	58.2
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 91	n.a.	99.7	-0.7	-4.6	
Foreign investment							
Net foreign debt		\$m	30 Sept. 91	135,020	n.a.	1.2	3.6
Net foreign liabilities		"	"	184,045	n.a.	2.6	7.1
Exchange rates (monthly average)							
US\$	per \$A	Dec. 91	0.7723	n.a.	-1.8	0.3	
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	57.4	n.a.	-2.7	1.2	
Other indicators							
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 91	17.3	n.a.	0.3	1.5	
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	Nov. 91	224	199	-7.4	12.5	

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) November 1991 is not strictly comparable with November 1990 due to the introduction by motor vehicle registration authorities of a more accurate identification and classification system. (f) Later figures expected to be released Wednesday, 12 February 1992. (g) Later figures expected to be released Thursday, 13 February 1992.

NOTES: † = change in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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